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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 CAB-05 DODE-00 DOTE-00
FAA-00 L-03 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 /068 W
----------095098 140559Z /15
R 122124Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8617
INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS OTTAWA 04445

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, CA
SUBJECT: AIR CANADA LABOR PROBLEMS: TWO DOWN - TWO TO GO

REF: OTTAWA 4332

1. THE PRESS REPORTED SEPT. 12 THAT ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE AIR CANADA GROUND WORKERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS HAVE VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE MOST RECENT CONTRACT OFFER, THUS ENSURING THAT THE AIRLINE'S SECOND MAJOR LABOR DISPUTE IS SETTLED.

2. WHILE THE GROUND WORKERS WERE VOTING TO ACCEPT THEIR NEW CONTRACT, HOWEVER, THE CARRIER'S 2,700 STEWARDESSES AND STEWARDS (REPRESENTED BY THE CANADIAN FLIGHT ATTENDANTS ASSOCIATION) WERE BEING POLLED BY MAIL ON THEIR INTENTIONS TO STRIKE AGAINST THE COMPANY. THE BALLOTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COUNTED SEPT. 20. SINCE THE FEDERAL CONCILLIATOR'S
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REPORT IS EXPECTED TO GO TO THE ACTING LABOR MINISTER TODAY, THE UNION SHOULD BE IN A LEGAL STRIKE POSITION AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE RESULTS OF THE STRIKE VOTE BECOME KNOWN.

3. IN PREPARATION FOR A POSSIBLE STRIKE BY THE FLIGHT ATTENDANTS, AIR CANADA HAS BEEN CONDUCTING CRASH COURSES

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IN FLIGHT ATTENDANT DUTIES FOR MANAGEMENT AND CLERICAL WORKERS, WHO IT SAYS IT WILL PUT ON THE AIRPLANES TO KEEP THEM OPERATING.

4. FOLLOWING THE FLIGHT ATTENDANTS IN THE WAITING LINE FOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH AIR CANADA ARE THE COMPANY'S TICKET CLERKS. BY THE TIME THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT AND TICKET CLERK AGREEMENTS ARE WORKED OUT, PRESUMABLY BY LATE AUTUMN, THE COMPANY WILL AGAIN BE FACED WITH NEW CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ITS PILOTS SINCE THEIR PRESENT ONE-YEAR CONTRACT, AGREED TO ONLY LAST MONTH, WAS RETROACTIVE TO LAST DECEMBER. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OTTAWA04445
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780373-0563
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780977/aaaaclhh.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9ad35b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OTTAWA 4332
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1468191
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIR CANADA LABOR PROBLEMS: TWO DOWN - TWO TO GO
TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ad35b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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